



Preparation for Worship

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore, we shall not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

—Psalm 46

Voluntary

Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ
I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ | BuxWV 196

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Introit

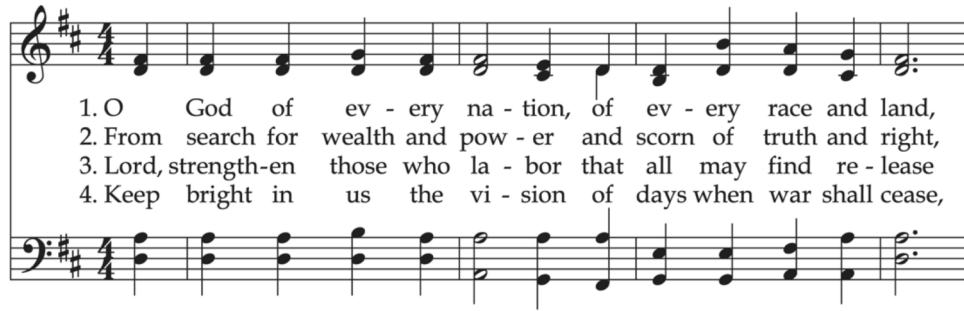
Behold, God Is My Salvation

Eric Thiman
(1900-1975)

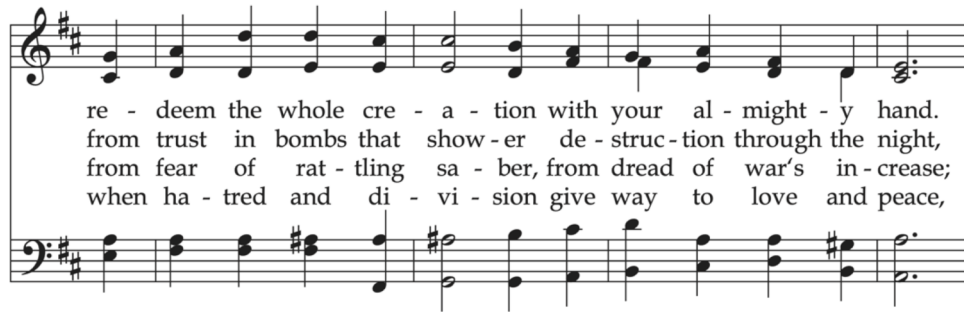
Behold, God is my salvation,
I will trust and not be afraid.

— Isaiah 12:2 (KJV)

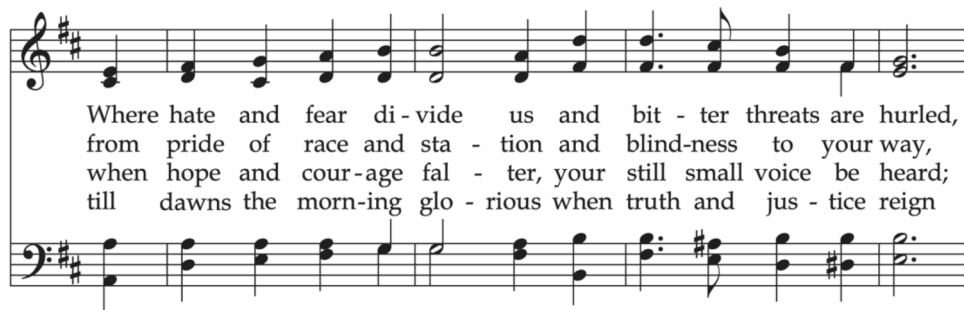
✠ Opening Sentences



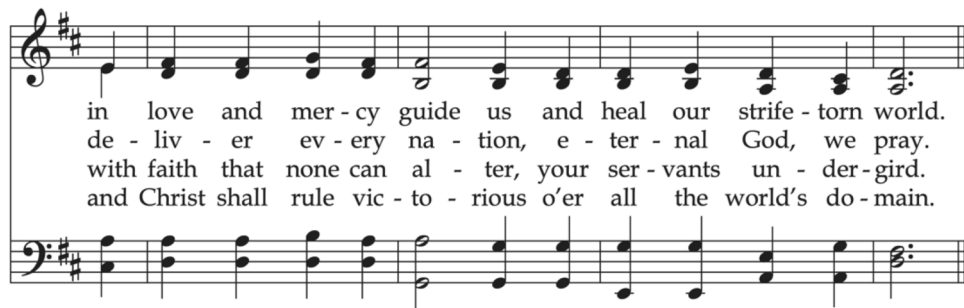
1. O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2. From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3. Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4. Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign



in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text from 1958 is set to a very familiar hymn tune from nearly a century earlier.

✦ Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
 our sins are too heavy to carry,
 too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
 Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
 what our hearts can no longer bear,
 and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.
 Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
 open to us a future in which we can be changed;
 and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
 through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

silent prayer

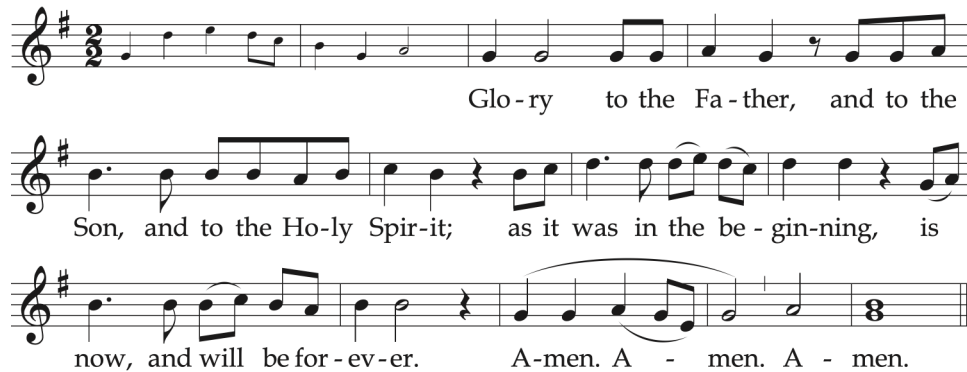
Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

✦ Response

John Weaver



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the
 Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is
 now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men. A - men. A - men.

✦ The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Anthem

The Call of Wisdom

Will Todd
 (b. 1970)

Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth, Lord of justice, Lord of mercy:
 walk beside us down the years till we see you in your glory.
 Striving to attain the heights, turning in a new direction,
 entering a lonely place, welcoming a friend or stranger.
 I am here, I am with you. I have called: do you hear me?
 Silver is of passing worth, gold is not of constant value,
 jewels sparkle for a while; what you long for is not lasting.
 Rulers govern under me with my insight and my wisdom.
 Those who know me know my love, those who seek me find their answer.
 God the Father and the Son, Holy Spirit coeternal:
 glory be ascribed to you, now and to the end of ages.

— words by Michael Hampel (based on Proverbs 8)

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-38

N.T. pg. 8

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Ripples and Promises

John Wurster

✦ Hymn 463 [\(see page 9\)](#)

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

✦ Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:5-11

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

Solo

There Is a Hope

Stuart Townend and Mark Edwards
2007

There is a hope that burns within my heart,
That gives me strength for every passing day;
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meager part, yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiv'n; and Christ in me, the Hope of heav'n!
My highest calling and my deepest joy, to make his will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head,
A consolation strong against despair,
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit, I find the Savior there!
Through present sufferings, future's fear, he whispers "courage" in my ear.
For I am safe in everlasting arms, and they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time,
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine when I behold his face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die, and every longing satisfied.
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul, for I am truly home.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name.
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,
 as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
 for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory forever. Amen.

✦ Hymn 275 ([see page 10](#))

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

Charge and Blessing

Kindly remain in silence during the closing voluntary, or depart very quietly.

Voluntary

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott
 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God | BuxWV 184

Dietrich Buxtehude

SERVING TODAY

Liturgists

Keatan King and Omar Rouchon

Musicians

Julia Fox, Cecilia Duarte, Emily Jenkins, Thomas Lewis O'Neill,
 Nicholas Rathgeb and Kirby Traylor – choral ensemble
 Matthew Dirst – organist | Randall Swanson – music director

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's lectionary readings:

- Isaiah 50:4-9a – *God has given me the tongue of a teacher, to sustain the weary.*
- Psalm 116:1-9 – *Lord, you deliver me from death, from weeping, from stumbling.*
- James 3:1-12 – *Words have the power to bless and curse; use them wisely.*
- Mark 8:27-38 – *Jesus says: You must take up the cross if you want to follow me.*

MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

Today's voluntaries both come from Dietrich Buxtehude, the greatest representative of the North German organ school of the late seventeenth century. Each treats a well-known German chorale melody in distinct ways. Buxtehude's setting of *Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ* is a changeable fantasy, with each phrase of this penitential hymn prompting distinct treatment, from a long-note *cantus firmus*-style melody with accompanying counterpoint to a more equal-voiced texture with lively rhythmic figuration. *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* is a more traditional treble-dominated setting, with the decorated melody always in the top voice and mostly imitative counterpoint below.

– Matthew Dirst

Choral Music

This morning's **introit** is by English composer, conductor and organist Eric Thiman, who published some 1,300 works during his lifetime, including many anthems, carols and canticles for church choirs. Much of Thiman's choral and organ music was written for Nonconformist (i.e., non-Anglican) churches, and Thiman himself was a Congregationalist by birth. *Behold, God Is My Salvation* is No. 1 of *24 Introits*, published in 1961. Like much of his music, it shows a particularly strong affinity for traditional harmony used to striking and new effect. Thiman was a master of

short-form pieces, as evidenced here in just 14 measures of music for four-part choir and organ.

Today's **anthem** is the beautiful *The Call of Wisdom* by British classical composer and jazz musician Will Todd, written for the 2012 Diamond Jubilee service at London's St. Paul's Cathedral celebrating the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. Originally composed for children's voices and organ, the anthem was premiered (on live television with an audience of some 45 million people!) by a large auditioned choir featuring children from every region and nation of the UK joined by the Choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral and the boys of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal. This morning the choir sings Todd's evocative anthem in his subsequent setting for mixed voices and organ.

This morning's **solo** is a worship song by Stuart Townend and Mark Edwards. Townend grew up in West Yorkshire, England, the youngest son of an Anglican vicar. He started learning piano at a young age, and began writing music at age 22. Some of his best-known songs include "How Deep the Father's Love," "The King of Love," and "The Power of the Cross." Townend serves as worship leader at Church of Christ the King in Brighton, England.

– Randall Swanson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

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IN OUR PRAYERS

MEMORIAL SERVICE – Saturday, **September 18** at 3:00 p.m. there will be a memorial service for Paul and Alice Pennington in the Sanctuary. Masks are required. The service will also be live-streamed at www.saintphilip.net

St. Philippians and their families – Joyce Fugit; Sondra Sullivan; Orlean Anderson; Dorothy Murphey; Bill Slick; Roderick James; Deb Burks; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Dave Berry – husband of Sam Fisher; Dale McAllen – brother of Orlean Anderson; Alma Fonseca – mother of Angelina Fonseca; Bill Polk – brother-in-law of Sharon Webb; Darryl Cazes – brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; Douglas Everhart – brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Gretchen Everhart – Niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick – sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson; Mac & Beverly Wilson – parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family – daughter of Nancy Higgs; Dottie Laas and family – cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron – sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Shirley Boggus – grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona Rowe – mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio – granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound – Walter Baker; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians – Paul English; Matt Scalapino and Laura Chilton – friends of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff – friend of Jo Helland; Rob Bond, Lavon Thomas, and Jackson Tavel – friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; Clayton Amacker – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III – friend of Robin and Gary Willis.

We also pray for health care workers, first responders, and caregivers; for those who are sick; and for those watch and wait.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email:

deacons@saintphilip.net.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE – **Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.** This service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary and also available for later viewing on our website. If you'd like to attend the midweek service in-person contact the church office.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE – The 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services are open for in-person attendance in the Sanctuary and masks are required. The Sunday 11:00 a.m. will continue to be live-streamed.

[Our website](#) has information about **opportunities on Zoom** for fellowship and spiritual formation.

SAVE THE DATE! The Mission Committee will host a drive-through on Saturday, **September 18**, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, to collect items for the Seafarers Christmas boxes. Look for donation details in the Philip-Eye and at <http://saintphilip.net/Mission.html>.

COME WALK WITH US! We are inviting members of all ages to join our stewardship journey by sharing with us a vignette about your faith journey to be included in the stewardship package this year. The sharing can take the form of a written message, a photo, an artwork, a video, a bible verse, a prayer, a song, or another format of your choice. With a journey theme you may think about companions, obstacles, rewards, joys, or destinations that have been a part of your journey. Send your contributions to welcome@saintphilip.net by **September 17** or drop them off during the Mission Drive-thru on **September 18** with a committee member.

CHURCH & SOCIETY - Today - 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. by Zoom - Rally Day class reunion and preview of fall 2021 term. **September 19 - Children in Crisis - Human Trafficking - Judge Bonnie Hellums & Carel Stith.** Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER – A look via Zoom at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday has returned with Zoom sessions Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Email John for details and to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net.



AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,
 we seek to be an inclusive,
 grace-filled community,
 engaging the world with open minds,
 willing hands and generous hearts.

WE LONG
 for deeper faith,
 vibrant hope
 and boundless love
 for everyone, every day, everywhere.

Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the narthex on the way into the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available throughout the morning from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

A **Hearing Loop** is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your “T switch” to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones. **LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY’S HYMNS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month (September 19) after the 11:00 worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is live-streamed at saintphilip.net. We also live-stream a midweek prayer on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

Contributions, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, text “SPPC” to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,
 is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;
 What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
 to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

TEXT: "K" in John Rippons's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 MUSIC: American folk melody; Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832, alt.

FOUNDATION
 11.11.11.11

[Return to bulletin](#)

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.